

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present Amendment is being submitted prior to the issuance of the first Office Action in the present application.

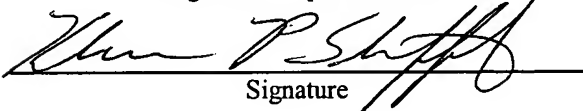
With this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 15 and 17, and added new dependent claims 29 and 30.

Favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 17, 2004:

Klaus P. Stoffel

Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative

  
Signature

December 17, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
Klaus P. Stoffel

Registration No.: 31,668

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

KPS:ck